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Cardinal Stephen Kim Sou-hwan Chose Dying with Dignity;
He Declined Life-Prolonging Treatment and
Gave His Eyes So Others Could See

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Results of Last October's National Academic Assessment Test Show
that Schools Implementing Teacher Evaluation System Did Better than
Those Not Implementing It

Hankook Ilbo
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Hankyoreh Shinmun
With National Academic Assessment Test Results Made Public,
Education Offices Forcing Teachers to Upgrade Performance Levels of
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Segye Ilbo, Seoul Shinmun
Financial Markets Retreat amid Renewed Fears for Economy

Domestic Developments

[1](#)1. According to the Defense Ministry, the Ministry has described
North Korea as a "direct and serious threat" in its biennial 2008

Defense White Paper to be published on Feb. 20. It was a harsher expression compared to the 2006 issue, where the North was cited as simply an "existing military threat." Before the 2004 issue, the North was described as a "main enemy." (All)

¶2. According to a senior Blue House official, Seoul has proposed holding a summit between Presidents Lee Myung-bak and Barack Obama on the sidelines of the G20 Financial Summit slated to be held in London in April, and Washington has agreed to positively consider the proposal. (Hankyoreh)

International News

¶1. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, in a Feb. 17 press conference in Japan, warned North Korea against going ahead with a missile launch, saying: "The possible missile launch that North Korea is talking about would be very unhelpful in moving our relationship forward." (All)

¶2. According to a high-ranking ROKG official, ROK and U.S. intelligence authorities believe that North Korea is operating a plant to produce a small amount of highly enriched uranium (HEU) at its main nuclear complex in Yongbyon. (Dong-a)

¶3. According to Japan's Mainichi Shimbun, North Korean leader Kim Jong-il chose his third son, Jong-un, as his heir apparent, and the General Political Staff, the key organ of the People's Army, distributed a memorandum to that effect to military units early last month. (Dong-a, Hankook, Hankyoreh, Segye, Seoul)

Media Analysis

Secretary Clinton in Asia

The ROK media gave wide coverage to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's visit to Japan yesterday as part of her first overseas trip to Asia since taking office. Secretary Clinton was quoted as saying during a Feb. 17 press conference with Japanese Foreign Minister Hirofumi Nakasone: "The possible missile launch that North Korea is talking about would be very unhelpful in moving our relationship forward." The ROK media also reported that Secretary Clinton and her Japanese counterpart agreed on a Feb. 24 summit in Washington between President Barack Obama and Japanese Prime Minister Taro Aso, while noting that the Japanese Prime Minister will be the first foreign leader to visit President Obama at the White House.

Right-of-center JoongAng Ilbo's editorial noted Secretary Clinton's visit to Seoul tomorrow, and commented: "Her visit is being viewed with high expectations and interest, not only because the Obama Administration chose East Asia over previously favored destinations - Europe and the Middle East - as its top diplomat's first overseas trip, but also in view of heightening fears about military provocation by North Korea. Pyongyang's threats of a long-range ballistic missile launch are largely regarded as empty rhetoric, timed with Clinton's first foreign trip, to get attention from the U.S. and the international community. Accordingly, her visit should serve to allay the security fears of ROK people. Seoul must give Secretary Clinton a full account of the current situation on the Korean Peninsula and discuss a concerted response to the North's provocative actions. The two allies must coordinate their plans to encompass the worst-case scenario of a North Korean missile launch and an attack on ROK territory, and reconfirm their joint stance and efforts to denuclearize North Korea."

North Korea

Conservative Dong-a Ilbo ran an inside-page report quoting a high-ranking ROKG official as saying yesterday that ROK and U.S. intelligence authorities believe that North Korea is operating a plant to produce a small amount of highly enriched uranium (HEU) at its main nuclear complex in Yongbyon.

Most of the ROK media replayed a Feb. 17 report by Japan's Mainichi Shimbun saying that North Korean leader Kim Jong-il chose his third son Jong-un as his heir apparent and that the General Political Staff, the key organ of the People's Army, distributed a memorandum to that effect among military units early last month.

The ROK media gave wide attention to the Defense Ministry's decision to describe North Korea as a "direct and serious threat" in its biennial 2008 Defense White Paper to be published on Feb. 20. The media noted that it was a harsher expression compared to the 2006 issue, where the North was cited as simply an "existing military threat." Before the 2004 issue, the North was described as a "main enemy."

Opinions/Editorials

Agenda for Clinton visit
(JoongAng Ilbo, February 18, 2009, Page 30)

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton is due in Seoul tomorrow. Her visit is being viewed with high expectations and interest, not only because the Barack Obama Administration chose East Asia over previous favored destinations - Europe and the Middle East - as its top diplomat's first overseas trip, but also in view of heightening fears about military provocation by North Korea.

Pyongyang's threats of a long-range ballistic missile launch are largely regarded as empty rhetoric, timed with Clinton's first foreign trip, to get attention from the U.S. and the international community. But they have succeeded in exacerbating security fears here.

North Korea on Monday issued a misleading statement following news reports that it was preparing to test-launch a Taepodong-2 missile from a base on its east coast. North Korea's state-run news agency said it had the right to pursue a space program and added, "One will know what went up after the launch." It is not the first time North Korea has tried to mask its missile launches as part of a space program. Seoul maintains that whatever Pyongyang launches, a satellite or a missile, it would be violating United Nations Security Council Resolution 1718, which prohibits North Korea from developing missiles and weapons of mass destruction. The problem can be elevated to an international legal dispute if North Korea maintains that it has merely launched a satellite.

In the worst-case scenario, the U.S. can shoot down a long-range missile aimed at its territory, as Defense Secretary Robert Gates has warned. This would be a disaster for South Korea, whether the counteraction succeeds or not.

Airborne threats are not the only concern for South Korean military officials. North Korea has increased naval activities along the western sea border. Defense Minister Lee Sang-hee said Seoul was readying for North Korean provocations near sea and land borders. He said he has given authority to field commanders to take necessary action, hinting that military clashes were possible.

Seoul must give Clinton a full account of the current situation on the Korean Peninsula and discuss a concerted response to North Korea's provocative actions.

The two allies must coordinate their plans to encompass the worst-case scenario of a North Korean missile launch and an attack on South Korean territory, and reconfirm their joint stance and efforts to denuclearize the North Korean regime.

* This is a translation provided by the newspaper, and it is identical to the Korean version.

Features

"North Korea Is Operating a Plant to Enrich Uranium at Yongbyon"
(Dong-a Ilbo, February 18, 2009, Page 6)

By Reporter Cho Soo-jin

ROK and U.S. intelligence have discovered that North Korea is operating facilities that can produce a small amount of highly enriched uranium (HEU), a senior ROKG source said on February 17.

"Despite North Korea's denial of the existence of a uranium enrichment program, the ROK and the U.S. have shared information

that North Korea has built and is operating uranium enrichment facilities," the source said, adding that the underground facilities are located in Sowi-ri, North Pyongan Province.

Sowi-ri is an administrative district of Yongbyon, North Pyongan Province, where plutonium facilities, including five-megawatt and 50-megawatt reactors and reprocessing facilities, are located. The North is believed to have set up underground facilities to enrich uranium near the Yongbyon facilities (located in Punkang-ri).

The source, however, declined to mention the details, such as North Korea's technological progress in enriching uranium and its uranium output.

In this regard, a high-ranking ROKG official confirmed the sharing of the information between the ROK and the U.S. but added, "Since the U.S. has several intelligence agencies, such as the Central Intelligence Agency and the Defense Intelligence Agency, we need to keep watching, regarding the suspicions of North Korea's HEU nuclear programs."

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton told reporters after her February 13 speech to the Asia Society in New York, "(The George W. Bush Administration) should have dealt with information on North Korea's HEU production efforts seriously," and made clear that (the U.S.) will point to the HEU issue at future negotiations with the North.

Campbell Will Be in Overall Charge of U.S. Negotiations with N. Korea
(JoongAng Ilbo, February 18, 2009, Page 18)

Three key players will assume their own duties.

The Obama Administration unveiled an outline of the line-up which will lead U.S. negotiations with North Korea. North Korean issues in discussion under the Obama Administration will be undertaken by three key players--including former Ambassador to Korea, Stephen Bosworth, who is to be officially named as Special Envoy to North Korea, Kurt Campbell, Assistant Secretary of State-designate for East Asia and Pacific affairs, and Sung Kim, U.S. State Department Specialist on Korean Affairs who served as the Six-Party Talks Ambassador under the Bush Administration.

Special Envoy Bosworth will directly talk with North Korean leaders.

Bosworth and Sung Kim will attempt to publicly contact North Korea. Meanwhile, Campbell will draw an overall picture of U.S. policy toward the North behind the scene and coordinate with North Korean leaders. Since Campbell has not yet been confirmed in Senate, he is not working in the State Department. However, he is carrying out his duties as Assistant Secretary at the Center for a New American Security (CNAS), a think tank where he serves as chief executive officer. A Washington source said on Feb. 16, "Campbell has recently met Sung Kim and agreed on what direction the U.S. negotiation with North Korea will take, and the Obama Administration asked Sung Kim to participate in U.S. negotiations with North Korea."

Campbell's influence comes from his special ties with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Last year, he was a chief architect of the Clinton Camp's policy toward Asia in the race for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination. His wife, Lael Brainard is currently Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs. Moreover, the CNAS has as board members, prominent figures of the Obama Administration including former Secretary of the Navy Richard Danzig, Deputy Secretary of State James Steinberg, Director of National Intelligence Dennis Blair and Head of Presidential Transition Team John Podesta. According to the AP news, "Campbell can enter Clinton's office freely at any time and whoever becomes an envoy to North Korea will realize this relationship."

Envoy-designate to North Korea Bosworth played a pivotal role in the Obama camp along with Jeffrey Bader, Senior Director for Asian

Affairs on the National Security Council, in the presidential election last year. Enriched in diplomatic experience, he will talk directly with North Korean high ranking officials and immediately brief President Obama and Secretary Clinton on the results. A source related to the Korean Embassy in the U.S. said, "It needs to be heeded whether Envoy Bosworth could sit face to face with the North's key official who ranks higher than Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye-gwan, the chief negotiator for the Six-Party Talks."

Sung Kim will analyze a strategy toward North Korea and devise a response.

Sung Kim, who was in charge of U.S. negotiations with North Korea along with Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill in the Bush Administration will play an important role in analyzing the North's negotiation strategy and intentions based on his experience, and will devise a response. A diplomatic source in Washington said, "There are discussions in the U.S. State Department that Bosworth will focus on directly contacting the North and Sung Kim will lead the Six-Party Talks."

It has been confirmed that Frank Januzzi, who served as the chief of Obama's Korea Policy Team during presidential election is working in the Senate's Foreign Relations Committee chaired by U.S. Democratic Senator John Kerry.

Stephens